Open Space Congress Promotes Preservation and Partnerships in Southern Region

Citing the landscape and environment of the south metropolitan region as the catalyst that "will allow us to grow economically," Governors State University President Paula Wolff set in motion the theme of openness, both of space and of mind, that pervaded the third annual Open Space Congress.

Held at GSU's Sherman Music Recital Hall and sponsored by the South Metropolitan Regional Open Space Alliance (OSA) and the South Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center (SMRLC), the March 21 congress represented a diverse mixture of government agencies, environmental organizations and advocacy groups.

The OSA grew out of the realization that Chicago's southern region was experiencing tremendous growth in some areas and stagnation in others. With area leaders agreeing that a regional vision was needed and with the guidance of SMRLC, numerous committees made up of citizens from throughout the region took part in a major envisioning process. One of the major results was the formation of OSA and its goal of open space preservation and enhancement in the southern region.

As congress moderator, SMRLC Executive Director Larry McClellan identified two overriding issues for the congress: finding the most effective ways of managing the challenges presented by eco-partnerships and...
increasing the understanding of the joint issues facing Illinois and Indiana.

The subject of eco-partnerships (formerly called macrosites) was addressed from four points of view: federal, state, regional and local. Involving public and private partners, eco-partnerships represent a movement toward sustainable development involving extensive environmental conservation, preservation and restoration and economic development in large areas managed by multiple interests. In a whole new way, the prefix "eco" now encompasses both sustainable ecological and economic development.

Urging the congress to "think globally and act locally," U.S. Representative, Jerry Weller (R-Ill.) discussed three major eco-partnership projects with which he is involved: Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Lake Calumet Heritage Area and saving the Kankakee River Basin.

Originally the property of the Joliet Arsenal, the 19,000-acre Midewin Prairie is a redevelopment project by the U.S. Forest Service and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that aim at returning the prairie to the way it was two hundred years ago. Weller reported that this site, referred to as the "Yellowstone of the Midwest" by some, was possible because of bi-partisan congressional support and is the "first and biggest of its kind." The prairie is said to have a great impact on visiting urbanites who, while turning 360 degrees, see nothing but the horizon.

Closer to GSU, Weller is intending to introduce legislation that will establish the bi-state Calumet Region as a "Heritage Area." The Calumet area is still home to significant marshes and wetlands and many rare and/or endangered species. Weller also pointed out that the Calumet area was key to the development of American heavy industry and the rise of the labor movement during the latter part of the last century. Events in this region had far-reaching effects on labor laws in this country.

Finally, Weller highlighted the need for saving the Kankakee River that is being destroyed by sand and silt sediment. A long standing problem for the bi-state area, much time was devoted to this topic throughout the day.

OSA Chair Al Sturges provided an update on Action Agenda items identified by OSA as critical to our environment and highlighted current projects as well as those that have reached fruition. He also revealed that bikeway grants have been secured to extensively develop six sites in the region.

Dr. Brian Anderson (Ill. Dept. of Nat. Resources) spoke on behalf of the state. On the regional level, speakers included Ders Anderson (The Openlands Project), Dr. Mark Reshkin (Northwest Indiana Forum) and Mike Pasteris (Forest Preserve District of Will County). On the local level, GSU professor, Jon Mendelson, represented the Thorn-Creek Eco-Partnership. Other presentations were by members from Calumet Ecological Park Association, and in Indiana, the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission and Kankakee River Basin Partnership.

The highlights of the day were the "roll up your sleeves" break-out sessions that conceived the ideas for the next year's agenda. The vast list of action items recommended included use of the LincolnNet to inform and solicit support for open space projects, issues, actions and groups; recognize and promote the usefulness of federal level intervention in major open space effort; and encourage the creation of community groups to monitor local planning commissions, zoning boards and municipal agencies and their decisions on land development.

For more information, please contact lxosa@lincolnNet.net - by Ted Spaniak, research associate, and Karyn Purvis, director of Unco/nNet at the South Metropolitan Regional leadership Council of Governors State University.
3rd World Conference Examines Global Issues

"Visioning the 21st Century: Globalization, Transformation, and Opportunity." was the theme for the 24th Annual Third World Conference, held at the Swissotel in Chicago on March 18-21.

Speakers representing universities from the four corners of the United States, the United Nations, the NAACP, and countries from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America all were represented, and approximately 350 people attended the four day conference.

In addition, speakers representing U.S. universities were from every continent in the world, giving a truly global perspective on issues.

The Third World Conference examines the complexity of economic, socio-cultural, political and technological changes in a rapidly changing world. Theoretical and practical issues such as development, poverty, education and health that affect the entire spectrum of Third World/Diaspora societies were discussed in 35 panel discussions.

GSU Well Represented at Conference on Diversity in Education

Everywhere one looked at the recent conference of the Illinois Council for College Attendance (ICCA), one could find people with connections to GSU. The annual professional development conference of the not-for-profit group which strives to provide opportunities for minority students to attend and succeed in post-secondary education featured significant participation by GSU faculty, staff and alumni.

More than 200 people attended the conference, entitled Transformations in Higher Education, which was held on Friday, March 27 at DePaul University and was co-sponsored by the Professionals for Latino Recruitment in Higher Education (P.L.A.R.H.E.). Featured speakers at the conference included GSU President Paula Wolff, GSU professor Dr. Akkanad Isaac, Learning-in-Context program director Ernestine Beck-Fulgham, Project HOPE/Proyecto Esperanza program coordinator Yanina Gomez, and GSU alum and former admissions counselor Salvador Mendoza, who now serves as director of diversity for Hyatt Hotels.

GSU Affirmative Action Officer Glen Abbott is president of ICCA, GSU Executive Director of Enrollment Services Michael Toney is a board member and served on the conference planning committee, and Cynthia Cruz, who just recently left her position as coordinator of articulation at GSU is president of P.L.A.R.H.E. In addition, several breakout sessions at the conference were moderated by GSU personnel.

The conference focused on the ongoing changes in higher education being brought about by an increasingly diverse population, both in the general public and in the classroom, and the rapid advancements in technology. Other featured speakers included Lieutenant Governor Bob Kustra, who spoke of the need for universities to embrace the technological advancements as a way to increase access for everyone, and DePaul University School of Education Dean Barbara Sizemore, who pointed out the need for continued vigilance in providing opportunities for minorities, particularly those from disadvantaged neighborhoods, to attain post-secondary education.

"The work being done by the people in this room is so important to making sure that everyone can participate in the American dream," said Wolff during her presentation as part of a panel discussion that included representatives from education and industry. "Studies show that earning potential is directly tied to a college degree, so to deny anyone access to higher education is to deny the opportunity to make a decent wage."

"Corporations are very interested in diversity in hiring," noted Mendoza during the same panel discussion. "When organizations like the NAACP or the Urban League come to Hyatt to hold conferences, they ask questions like, 'What’s the [ethnic] makeup of your national management?' Or 'Who’s the manager of this hotel?' It is in Hyatt Hotels’ other businesses’ best interests to hire a diverse work force."

For more information on ICCA membership or future events, contact Glen Abbott at 708-534-4132.
Happenings

Learn About Alternative Medicine in a New Course Offered at GSU

A three credit-hour course, Alternative/Complementary Medicine for Healthcare, HLSC 850, is scheduled for Saturdays at GSU from May 16 through August 22, from 9 to noon.

Experts in fields such as yoga, homeopathy, acupuncture, nutrition, chiropractic and massage therapy will discuss the alternative and non-traditional medicine practices.

For more information on the course or to register, contact Barbara Davis at (708) 534-3044 or Veronica Williams at (708) 534-3143.

Marketing and Advertising Workshops to be Held at GSU

A hands-on marketing workshop called “How to Stand Out from the Competition,” will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This workshop teaches participants the art of “guerrilla marketing,” a combination of creative strategies and proven tactics rather than huge marketing budgets. The cost of the marketing seminar is $90.

The Guerrilla Advertising Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is $50.

Participants must have attended the Guerrilla Marketing workshop first.

Each workshop is limited to six participants per session to ensure individualized attention, and both will be held in the Small Business Development Center at GSU.

For more information or to register, call the SBDC at (708) 534-4929.

Workshop on Navigating the Internet: Resources for Speech, Language and Hearing Offered at GSU

Practicing speech, language and hearing professionals and students who desire further knowledge about Internet resources should sign up for a two-day workshop to be held at GSU.

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Students and Adults are Encouraged to Explore Archaeology

This summer, junior high, high school students and adults will have an opportunity to explore an archaeological site once inhabited by prehistoric peoples in southwestern Will County near Custer Park, Illinois.

The course, “1998 Archaeological Studies Program of Northeastern Illinois,” is sponsored by Governors State University, the Grand Prairie Archaeological Society, the South Suburban Archaeological Society and the Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology.

The site, situated on private property, was brought to the attention of Robert Gergen several years ago when Larry Binns, a local archaeological buff, learned that the land might be developed. At that time he requested that the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency investigate, and that’s when Gergen came in.

Gergen, the project director, said this is the third season the 2,000 year old site has been explored. “It’s a rich site — rare because it is a ceramic site. And because it is in a sandy area, it is easy to dig.”

Gergen said that artifacts already found at the site include housing patterns, burn pit features, copper needles, hundreds of projectile points, drills, shell beads, small pieces of mica and winged banner stones that were used with a lever-like throwing stick, the atlatl.

The site is the location of a Havana-Hopewell, Middle Woodland Period (150 B.C. - 350 A.D.) village. Evidence indicates that the site extends nearly 1,000 feet along a ridge, where perhaps 200 to 400 people lived.

There are also indications that the area was inhabited for thousands of years, but not continuously, Gergen said. It is one of the missing northern Illinois links in what is called the Hopewell Interactive Sphere, a trade network linking prehistoric centers throughout eastern North America. The name Havana-Hopewell is given to a people who inhabited sites from central and southern Ohio to Illinois.

Project Director Gergen teaches anthropology at Kankakee Community College.

New to the project is Monica Shah of Bourbonnais, who will be the field director for the project.

The course will provide a general introduction to field archaeology and laboratory methods. Instruction will include surveying techniques, surface collection, excavation techniques, feature excavation, mapping, artifact identification, artifact analysis, laboratory processing and cataloging.

For junior high, high school and non-credit adult study the program is divided into six sessions. Session I is from June 1 to 5, Session II is from June 8-12, Session III is June 15 to 19, Session IV is June 22 to 26, Session V is July 6 to 10 and Session VI is July 13 to 17. The sessions meet from 8 a.m. to noon, and the cost per session is $40.

Those students wishing to receive graduate or undergraduate credit are offered three sessions. Session I runs from June 1 to 12, session 2 runs from June 15 to 26 and Session 3 runs from July 6 to 17. The sessions meet from 8 a.m. to noon. Each session is for one credit hour. In addition, a Laboratory Methods course will be offered in the afternoon, corresponding to the Field Course sessions.

The undergraduate cost per credit hour is $97 and the graduate cost per credit hour is $102. The fee is the same for in and out of state residents. A $25 materials and equipment fee will also be assessed.

For more information on the junior high, high school and adult field course, contact Bob Gergen at (815) 932-0146. For information on the college credit program, contact Dr. Arthur Bourgeois at GSU at (708) 534-4012. Undergraduate credit is transferable to participating community colleges.
"Beliefs and Believers" Telecourse Sends GSU Film Crew to Middle East

GSU staff and Western Illinois University Professor John Simmons recently spent 10 days in the Middle East filming footage for a teleclass to be offered during the spring/summer trimester at GSU.

David Ainsworth, acting director of Communications Services, said the course, "Beliefs and Believers" has been an extremely popular one. Distributed by PBS, it has been offered in more than 40 institutions around the country and more than 12,000 students have taken it.

The original class did not include footage from the Middle East. "This adds a new perspective to the class," Ainsworth said. "The atmosphere in the Middle East is entirely different from the United States, where the practice of religion is essentially a private matter. There, even clothing is indicative of religious affiliation, and converting to another religion can be a cause for being killed."

Ainsworth said that while in Jerusalem he witnessed a Jew being hounded out of a Mosque. "If police had not gotten him out of there quickly, he would have been killed." It was a very volatile situation.

Professor Simmons added, "There was so much tension, palpable tension and hatred in the air it hit you physically." The unease was also high because of the crisis in Iraq, said Simmons. Muslims, Christians and Jews all felt that President Clinton was going to bomb Iraq. While many Arabs may not like Saddam Hussein, they like the U.S. less.

The underlying cause of the stress between the U.S. and the Middle East cultures, Simmons said, is that the U.S. administration misunderstands the significance they place on religion and land. Simmons said the journey throughout the Holy Land was not easy, because of tension and the prevailing attitude toward Americans.

It was made easier, however, by the guides. "Our guides and contacts, arranged by Father Keith Roderick of Macomb's St. George's Episcopal Church, were excellent. From the point of view of the project, the journey was incredibly successful," Simmons said.

During the Middle East trip, Simmons obtained video interviews with Jewish, Christian and Muslim religious leaders as well as people on the street and visited holy shrines in each faith. "Within the course of two hours, I prayed at the Western Wall, holy to Jews around the world; I visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which houses the last stations of Jesus' life and visited the Dome of the Rock, third most holy shrine to Muslims," Simmons said.

In Egypt, Simmons interviewed a Coptic Bishop and spent a day with the crew documenting life in a Coptic Monastery in the desert between Cairo and Alexandria. "The monastery has been in existence since the 11th century," said Ainsworth. "The monk who was our guide gave us a fascinating glimpse of the contemplative life."

"All of the interviews, film and experiences will help enormously with the new teleclass," Simmons added.

In addition to the Middle East trip, Simmons and GSU's video crew made an excursion to San Francisco last November that included video interviews with leaders of a Chinese Taoist Temple, an interview with Rev. Cecil Williams of the famous Glide Memorial Methodist Church and an interview with a person who lost two sisters in the Jonestown tragedy.

"Beliefs and Believers," ANTH35A, will be offered in the spring/summer trimester on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. Community members are welcome to take the course. Contact David Ainsworth at (708) 534-7270 for further details.
Happenings
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European Trip Open to GSU Alumni and University Community

The GSU Alumni Association is organizing an eight-day trip to Europe, with stops in Holland, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France.

Set for Oct. 22-29, 1998, the trip cost of $1,549 per person includes all breakfasts and dinners, tours, round-trip airfare, transportation and lodging in the Four-Star Park Hotel Rooding.

Tours of Amsterdam, Brussels, Maastricht, and Koblenz and trips to WW II sites, old towns, castles, medieval villages, cathedrals and a Rhine River cruise are planned. An optional trip to Paris is also available.

A travel preview meeting will be held on May 27, 1998 at 7 p.m. To make a reservation for the trip, the travel meeting, or for more information, call Alumni Relations at (708) 534-4128.

Student Faculty Choice Honors Reception

Everyone is welcome to The Committee for Diversity and Sense of Community invites you to attend the Student Faculty Choice Honors Reception on Thursday, April 23, 1998 from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Center for Performing Arts at GSU. Refreshments will be served.

Students nominate faculty members who have had the most positive influence on them, their education, and their future for recognition. Nomination forms are at the Information Desk and in most University offices. Contact Glen Abbott at ext. 4132 for additional information.

We want to list any events and news concerning GSU, an alum or graduate. Send your information with the event date, description and your name or (for GSU news) the person's full name, graduation date and major (if possible) and accomplishments to: GSU, @govst.edu, Public Affairs, University Park, IL 60466-0975.

New Theater Manager at The Center for Performing Arts at GSU

John Larrabee of Park Forest is the new theater manager for the Center for Performing Arts (CPA) at Governor State University.

Larrabee brings to the CPA 12 years of experience as an English teacher and theater director at Rich South High School and some professional acting experience in Chicago. He has played leading roles in performances in local productions like "Damn Yankees," "My Fair Lady" and "The Music Man."

Larrabee also taught English and theater at McAuley High School in Chicago, Prairie State College and Robert Morris College and wrote chapters in English books for McGraw-Hill.

Larrabee said he looks forward to a career at GSU and to fulfilling the obligations of his new role with energy and enthusiasm. Some of his responsibilities include keeping the CPA facility in top-notch form. He'll be dealing with artist contracts and their hotel accommodations. He'll also ensure that the specified technical requirements are completed for performances.

Larrabee said he is enjoying working with the CPA staff. "The atmosphere is professional, supportive and pleasant," he said.

He received a B.A. in English education from GSU in 1984 and a master's in theater education from Roosevelt University in 1995. Born in Highland, Ind., Larrabee moved to this area in 1965. He and his wife, Laurie, are expecting their first child in July.

Nick Battaglia
March Employee of the Month

Nick Battaglia is the March 1998 Employee of the Month at GSU.

Battaglia works as a Program Advisor in the College of Education, and was pleased to be recognized by his peers.

"It was a complete surprise to me. Advising is a team function and I originally thought all the advisors got the award — and they should be recognized. I enjoy working as an advisor in the College of Education."

Advisors differ from professors who advise students by specializing in advising only, providing the best career direction for students and support for their program.

Some of the comments from Battaglia's nominators were: "Nick extends himself beyond the norm. He always has a smile on his face. Nick is an exemplary employee who contributes significantly to student success." Also he is "instrumental in streamlining the work of the education advising office."

In addition to his advising role at GSU, Battaglia has taken on the task of creating the Web page for the education department. "We feel it is the best Web page in the university. He has done an exceptional job," wrote one nominator.

Battaglia resides in Park Forest with his wife, Phyllis Bacon, a former GSU employee.
Donald Bell Returns to Student Life Position at GSU

Donald M. Bell, a resident of Harvey, Ill., returns to GSU as program director for special events and student media.

Bell was among the first students at GSU, attending classes in warehouses at Gateway Industrial Park in Monee in the early 70's. Later, Bell was among the first students to attend classes at what is now GSU's permanent facility in University Park.

Bell received his bachelor of arts degree from GSU in urban socio-cultural processes in 1972. After graduation, he was a staff associate for the Mini-Action Projects program (MAPS) at GSU.

MAPS was the first collective effort by the south suburbs and GSU to stop the economic decline in Harvey, Ill., and to foster suburban regeneration.

He has been on staff at University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, and served as assistant dean of students at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

Bell is looking forward to working in the Student Life Division. "It's a rewarding career. I feel very much like I haven't been away [from GSU] for nine years," he said. "There's no place like the south metro area and no institution such as GSU. No one is doing what we're doing the way we're doing it."

April and May Programs Spring to Life at The Center for Performing Arts

The Center for Performing Arts at GSU welcomes in spring with six shows to entertain adults and children alike.

The Second City performs on Saturday, April 18 at 8 p.m., delivering laughter and topical humor second to none. Nothing is sacred, but everything is hilarious. This improvisational troupe looks at the world a little bit differently than the rest of us.

Tickets are $17.50.

On Saturday, April 25 at 11 a.m., see Pinocchio come to life before your eyes. Runaway to Pleasure Island where it's nothing but candy, fun, and games all day long, until you end up in the belly of a whale with only one wish in the whole wide world...to be a real live little boy, at home, with those who really love you.”

An AlphaBet Soup Production, Pinocchio tickets are only $7.00.

Where the Wild Things Are & Other Works, is a theatrical fantasy that will overwhelm child and adult alike. This ballet is filled with larger than life puppets with an attitude. The sets and the costumes look as if they jumped from the pages of Maurice Sendak's storybook.

Performances are Saturday, May 2 at 8 p.m. and a Sunday, May 3 matinee at 3 p.m.

Tickets are $18.

A special Mother's Day Show brings grammy award winner, singer-songwriter Don McLean to The Center for Performing Arts.

McLean burst onto the American music scene with his rockumentary hit, "American Pie" in 1972, singing his trademark "the day, the music died" song and his follow-up hits, Don McLean will entertain all ages.

A special package is available for McLean's show on Mother's Day, May 10 at 3 p.m. $102 lets a group of 4 (2 adults and 2 children) enjoy a full brunch buffet in addition to the concert. Individual tickets for this brunch performance are $37 adults, $15 children.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call the Center Box Office at (708) 235-2222.

GSU/Alumni News

Taida M. Kelly, university lecturer in the college of education at GSU, recently coauthored an article titled, "Teacher education program + school district = A natural partnership" with Jon N. Nebor, superintendent of Steger Elementary School District 194.


Donna Rutledge, a CELCS administrative aide and a GSU employee for 24 years, has been selected to serve on the advisory board for the eighth Biennial Conference for Working Women to be held on May 5 and 6 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Paul Green, director of the institute for public policy and administration, college of business and public administration, recently spoke at the MacArthur Foundation and at the Urban City conference, held in Springfield.

In addition, he was keynote speaker at the Taxpayer Federation of Illinois and Educational Research Foundation meetings.

Lydia A. Morrow Ruetten, university professor of library science, recently attended the Illinois Federation of Teachers leadership conference in Oak Brook.

Nancy Baumgartel is the new director of human resources at Sertoma Centre, Inc.

Baumgartel has a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from GSU and is currently working on her master of arts degree in human performance and training, also at GSU.
GSU/UPI Resolution Reached

The administration and the Board of Trustees of Governors State University (GSU) and the University Professionals of Illinois (UP I-4100/ GSU Chapter) are pleased to announce the successful resolution of faculty salary negotiations through mediation by a representative of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation service.

The two year settlement calls for a three percent per year salary increase across the board plus an additional .875% income per year for salary adjustment to address historical equity issues. The "equity pool" funding will come from savings derived from faculty retirements and from faculty productivity improvements.

The agreement by the UPI/GSU membership and the GSU Board of Trustees has been approved.

"We are pleased with this resolution because it addresses faculty needs and avoids the possibility of a strike, which could have been very disruptive for our students," said GSU President Paula Wolff. "It will be with great pleasure that we will report back to the Illinois General Assembly that the salary settlement falls within the three percent increase they appropriated for public higher education in Illinois. I thank and congratulate both negotiation teams and the federal negotiator for this accomplishment."

According to UPI President Mitch Vogel, "These negotiations were the longest in our history but they resulted in the UPI maintaining its position that all salary raises are subject to the collective bargaining process. We are pleased we were able to deliver some additional salary relief to our members."

"I congratulate all participants on both teams for their success in achieving this resolution," said Sally Jackson, chairperson of GSU's Board of Trustees. "Both sides," she continued, "displayed steadfastness and concern for the GSU student body throughout this process."

Marsha Katz, UPI President at GSU, expressed her pleasure that the "...faculty and staff at Governors State can now return to their most important activity of educating and servicing our students. With a two year settlement in hand, we can continue working with the administration on other items which will benefit the university community."

Meet... Melody O'Neal

"GSU is very close to my heart and is very much responsible for my success and what I am able to bring to others," says Melody O'Neal, GSU Foundation board member. O'Neal is the founder of Melmedica Children Healthcare Services. Its focus is the professional care of mothers with babies who have medically complex, technologically-assisted conditions.

O'Neal said that her success is attributed to the concerns and assistance of her professors at GSU. "The professors went beyond the classroom. They provided me with resources and information that helped me to succeed," she said. "I love children...that has always been my commitment and my passion," O'Neal expressed. This is what drives the owner of a healthcare service agency who financial profits exceeded its three year projection in just one year.

O'Neal said that she cannot take all the credit for her success, however.

The resources of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at GSU, the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs Loan program and others were instrumental in finding the funding that helped start up the agency. "There was always someone I could call that would give me direction as I developed my business," said O'Neal.

O'Neal received the 1991 Illinois Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award in a competition hosted by Ernst and Young, Inc. and Merrill Lynch & Co.

Melmedica originally started with two nurses in 1988. Since then the company has grown to employ over 300 nurses. In addition, Melmedica grossed over 8 million dollars in revenues last year.

To O'Neal, life is all about making a difference. "If we can make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families then it is very rewarding," O'Neal said.